

Public Notice - Environmental Permit
Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Purpose of notice: To seek public comment on a Temporary Emergency Permit to Treat Hazardous Waste which was issued by the DEQ to the Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, Yorktown, VA.

Public comment period: November 10, 2011, to December 12, 2011.

Permit Name and Number: Temporary Emergency Permit for Treatment of Hazardous Waste. EPA Permit ID No. VAP000016373.

Permit Applicant: Naval Weapons Station Yorktown

Facility Name and Location: Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, NAVSEA Indian Head Division, Yorktown Detachment, P.O. Box 160, Yorktown, Virginia 23691-0160

Project description: The Naval Weapons Station Yorktown initially applied for an Emergency Permit on October 31, 2011, to treat hazardous waste materials stored in Building 373 in the NAVSEA Indian Head Division, Yorktown Detachment, at the Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, Yorktown, VA, 23691. The hazardous waste consisted of two (2) 55-gallon drums, of liquid Tetrahydrofuran (THF), which had the RCRA hazardous waste numbers or codes of D001, Ignitability, U213, and possibly D003, Reactivity, due to the age of the material. The waste was stored in the facility's Building 373. The hazardous wastes were managed and treated under controlled and secured conditions by qualified personnel and was treated by qualified personnel by chemical neutralization or stabilization in the Building 373. No other chemicals were stored in Building 373 at the time of the permitted waste management and treatment event on November 8, 2011. The containers or drums were opened using a remote drum opener, which utilizes nitrogen as the power source, to gain access to the contents of the drums and bottles. Nitrogen was used to maintain a non-reactive environment during the management of the volatile THF in containers. The remote drum opener was operated from a distance of approximately 25-50 ft to provide a buffer zone to the treatment personnel in the event of an explosion. The contents of each container was tested and neutralized or stabilized, prior to management of the next container. In an emergency situation, the DEQ issues the Emergency Permit to allow a facility to manage hazardous waste as a result of an emergency situation and/or to be protective of human health and the environment.

How to comment: The DEQ accepts written comments by e-mail, fax, or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address, and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by the DEQ within the comment period. The public may also write to the contact person at the address below. The public may view the Permit at the DEQ's Tidewater Regional Office at 5636 Southern Boulevard, Virginia Beach, VA 23462. Copies of the Permit are also available at the DEQ, Hazardous Waste Program, Office of Waste Permitting and Compliance (OWPC), 629 East Main Street, Richmond, VA 23219.

Contact for public comments, document requests, and additional information: Richard J. Criqui, Jr., C.P.S.S., DEQ, OWPC, P. O. Box 1105, Richmond, VA, 23218. Phone: (804) 698-4013, fax: (804) 698-4234, e-mail: richard.criqui@deq.virginia.gov.